

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 19, 23, 24, 30, 31, 33, 34, 37 and 39 and cancel Claims 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 32, 35, 36, 44-51 as indicated below.

1-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A composition for remineralizing tooth enamel and/or for treating or preventing one or more conditions selected from the group consisting of dental caries, tooth erosion, dentinal hypersensitivity and gingivitis in a mammal, wherein the composition comprises:

an effective amount of a phosphoprotein preparation in combination with one or more carriers or diluents, wherein the phosphoprotein preparation ~~has been obtained by partially cross-linking a partial hydrolysate of casein or a caseinate~~ comprises a partially cross-linked partial hydrolysate of casein or a caseinate, wherein the partially cross-linked partial hydrolysate has been obtained by partially hydrolysing casein or a caseinate to a degree of hydrolysis of about 3% to about 89% of the total number of peptide bonds in the casein or caseinate, wherein the partially hydrolyzing step is followed by partially cross-linking the partially hydrolysed casein or caseinate to produce a phosphoprotein preparation having a degree of cross-linking of between 10 μ mol and 250 μ mol cross-links per gram of the total phosphoprotein in the preparation;

a source of calcium ions; and

a source of phosphate ions, or a source of strontium ions.

20. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the partial hydrolysate has been obtained by enzymatic hydrolysis of acid casein, rennet casein or a caseinate.

21. (Original) A composition according to claim 20, wherein the enzyme is trypsin.

22. (Canceled)

23. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[22]] 19, wherein the degree of hydrolysis is in the range of about 3.5% to about 7% of the total number of peptide bonds in the casein or caseinate.

24. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[22]] 19, wherein the degree of hydrolysis is in the range of about 4% to about 6.5% of the total number of peptide bonds in the casein or caseinate.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the partial hydrolysate has been partially cross linked enzymatically, using the enzyme transglutaminase.

28. (Canceled)

29. (Canceled)

30. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[28]] 19, wherein the degree of partial cross linking is such that the resulting phosphoprotein preparation comprises between about 50 and about 160 μmol cross links per gram of ~~protein~~ total phosphoprotein in the preparation.

31. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 19, ~~further comprising~~ including a source of calcium ions and a source of phosphate ions.

32. (Canceled)

33. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[30]] 19, wherein the composition further comprises calcium phosphate.

34. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[30]] 19, wherein the composition ~~further comprises natural milk~~ includes calcium from natural milk.

35. (Canceled)

36. (Canceled)
37. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim [[32]] 31, wherein the molar ratio of calcium ions to phosphate ions is in the range of about 0.8-1.2:0.4-0.8.
38. (Original) A composition according to claim 37, wherein the molar ratio of calcium ions to phosphate ions is about 1:0.6.
39. (Currently Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition ~~further comprises~~ includes a source of strontium ions.
40. (Original) A composition according to claim 39, wherein the composition further comprises a source of fluoride ions.
41. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a composition selected from the group consisting of a mouthwash, a dentifrice, toothpaste, a powder, an emulsion and a gel.
42. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition comprises an emulsion, wherein the phosphoprotein preparation is present in an amount of about 1% to about 15% by weight of the emulsion, and the emulsion further comprises natural milk calcium phosphate, in an amount of about 3% to about 12% by weight of the emulsion.
43. (Previously Amended) A composition according to claim 19, wherein the composition comprises a foodstuff and a confection.
- 44.-51. (Canceled)